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I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS CORRESPONDENCE (ALONG WITH ANY PAPER REFERRED TO AS BEING ATTACHED OR ENCLOSED) IS BEING DEPOSITED WITH THE UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE AS EXPRESS MAIL "POST OFFICE TO ADDRESSEE" BEFORE 5 P.M. ON THE ABOVE DATE IN AN ENVELOPE ADDRESSED TO COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS, P.O. BOX 1450, ALEXANDRIA, VA 22313-1450.

Name:

LINDA ZEHRER

Signature

Linda Zehrer

Date: October 13, 2005

PATENT**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

Applicants:	Aiyar, et al.	
Int. Appln. No:	PCT/US04/012045	
Int. Filing Date:	16 April 2004	
US Appln. No.:	To Be Assigned	Case No.: MS0019P
Filed:	Concurrently Herewith	
For:	SPLICE VARIANTS OF HUMAN VOLTAGE-GATED CALCIUM CHANNEL ALPHA2DELTA-2 SUBUNIT DESIGNATED-ALPHA2DELTA2-A AND ALPHA2DELTA2-B	

Art Unit:

Examiner:

MAIL STOP PCT
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1415
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Sir:

Applicants request entry of this amendment prior to examination of the above-identified application, which is a 371 of PCT/US04/012045, international filing date of April 16, 2004.

Any fees associated with the submission of this amendment can be charged to Merck Deposit Account No. 13-2755.

AMENDMENT TO THE SPECIFICATION appears on page 2 of this paper.

AMENDMENT TO THE CLAIMS appears on page 3 of this paper.

REMARKS begin on page 7 of this paper.